(c) whether a Departmental enquiry Officer had held two officers of NCCF responsible for this default; and

(d) whether any action has been taken against those officers, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) NCCF have reported that on the basis of fresh investigations conducted into the case, the then Dy. Manager (Imports and Exports) has been found responsible and that disciplinary action against him was initiated which is in progress with Commissioner of Departmental Inquiries, Central Vigilance Commission.

Compensation paid to the victims of train fire accident

614. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than hundred passengers were killed in the Mokameh-Arrah shuttle train on the 16th April, 1990 and subsequently some more injured died in the Hospitals; the exact number of those died in the said fire;

(b) whether it is also a fact that more of the dead and injured are office goers and sole bread earners of their respective families;

(c) if so, whether the compensation of Rs. 10,000/- on account of each dead and Rs. 2,000/- for each injured, as announced by Government are not grossly inadequate and much lower than the compensations paid by the Railways for the victims of rail accidents in the recent past; and

(d) if so, what is the rationale behind these compensation amounts?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH): (a) In the fire accident on 383 Up Mokama-Danapur Pass. on 16-4-90, 71 persons lost their lives on the spot and 3 persons died, subsequently, in the Hospitals.

(b) Some of the dead injured were office goers but it is difficult to establish that they were the sole bread earners of their respective families.

(c) and (d) Rs. 10,000/- paid on account of each of the 17 dead victims and Rs. 2,000/- on account of each of the 18 grievously injured persons, was only ex-gratia payment, not compensation. For the payment of claims compensation, applications have to be filed before the Railway Chains Tribunal, Mahendrughat, Patna. Notifications regarding the procedure for filing such applications have already been published in the newspapers

Enquiry committee's report on the accident of 383 Up Mokameh-Arrah shuttle train

615. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that preliminary reports about the fire incidence in the ill fated 383 Up Mokameh-Arrah shuttle train has indicated that highly inflamable gas cylinders were being carried in the train which have exploded to cause the fire;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any action against the concerned Railway officials who are responsible for the incident and to impose restrictions in carrying inflammable items in the trains; if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) The accident is being inquired into by the Commissioner of Railway Safety. Appropriate action will be taken against the staff, if held responsible for the accident, on receipt of the Report of the Commissioner of Railway Safety.

Instruction already exist against carriage of inflammable material in passenger carrying trains and there have been reiterated.

A special drive has also been launched to educate the travelling public about the dangers of carrying inflammable/ dangerous goods by passenger carrying trains.

रेल दुर्घटनाओं के पीड़ितों के लिए मुआवजे की राशि में वृद्धि

616. श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) बिहार में पटना के निकट मोकामा पैसेंजर रेलगाड़ी दुर्घटना में उन व्यक्तियों की संख्या कितनी है जिनकी पहचान हो चुकी है और उनकी संख्या कितनी है जिनकी पहचान नहीं हो सकी है ;

(ख) मृतक व्यक्तियों के परिवार वालों अथवा उनके संबंधियों को सहायता के रूप में कितनी धनराशि दी गई है ; और

(ग) सरकार ने बिहार के मुख्य मंत्री द्वारा की गई उस मांग के संबंध में क्या कार्यवाही की है, जिसमें इस दुर्घटना में मरे व्यक्तियों में से प्रत्येक मृत व्यक्ति के आश्रितों अथवा परिवार को दो लाख रुपये का मुआवजा देने के लिये कहा गया है ?

रेल मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री अजय सिंह) : (क) राजकीय रेलवे पुलिस, बिहार द्वारा दी गई सूचना के अनुसार पटना के निकट 16-4-90 को 383 अप मोकामा-दानापुर पैसेंजर गाड़ी की आग दुर्घटना में मारे गये कुल 75 व्यक्तियों में से 60 व्यक्तियों के शवों की शिनाख्त हो गई थी । शेष 15 शवों की शिनाख्त नहीं हो सकी थी ।

(ख) मृतकों के आश्रितों को मृत्यु के प्रत्येक मामले में 10,000 रुपये की अनुग्रह सहायता अनुमेय है । पहचाने गये 47 मामलों में 4,70,000 रुपये की राशि का भुगतान किया जा चुका है ।

(ग) नियमानुसार मृतकों के आश्रितों को मृत्यु के प्रत्येक मामले में एक लाख रुपये का मुआवजा अनुमेय है । इसके अलावा, इस दुर्घटना में मारे गये व्यक्तियों के आश्रितों को अनुग्रह के रूप में उतनी ही राशि का भुगतान करने का विनिश्चय किया गया है ।

Loss to NCCF on supply of controlled cloth to Sikkim

617. SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to refer to reply to Unstarred Question 1350 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 23rd March, 1990 and state:

(a) whether the NCCF have now awarded a Minor Penalty' with holding/ two (2) increments of the Asstt. Manager (Shri N. C. Jain) on 29th December, 1989 i.e. after four years of the irregularity committed;

(b) the reason for taking lenient view for black-marketing the essential commodity of Controlled Cloth;

(c) whether Government have received any suggestion from any Member of Parliament to review this decision, if so, what action has been taken thereon; and

(d) the reasons for not taking any action under Essential Commodities Act for violation of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The case was investigated by the CBI which did not find involvement of any officer of NCCF in the irregularities. Even then, the NCCF had imposed minor penalty by withholding two Annual increments without cummulative effect on the Asstt. Manager concerned, in December, 1989 for some procedural lapses, after obtaining the advice of CVC. As such, no lenient view was taken.